

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
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**Davis to Examine Legislation Aimed At Government
Reorganization, Ending Duplicative Programs**

What: Government Reform Committee Legislative Hearing,
“Cutting Out the Waste: An Overview of H.R. 5766, The
Government Efficiency Act, and H.R. 3282, The Abolishment of
Obsolete Agencies and Federal Sunset Act 2005 ”

When: Wednesday, July 19th 10:00 A.M.

Where: ROOM 2154, RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

The Committee on Government Reform will hold a legislative hearing to discuss two bipartisan legislative proposals intended to improve the operations and effectiveness of federal programs and agencies:

- H.R. 3282, the Abolishment of Obsolete Agencies and Federal Sunset Act of 2005, introduced by Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX); and
- H.R. 5766, the Government Efficiency Act, introduced by Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-KS).

This is the eighth hearing conducted by the Committee under Chairman Davis to discuss need for a legislative tool that would authorize limited reorganizations of the executive branch intended to improve the operations and effectiveness of the federal government. Three hearings have been held to discuss the need to develop legislation to address overlap and duplication across the government; four “case study” hearings have been held to assess the extent of overlap and duplication in specific areas of the federal operations.

The Committee will hear testimony from the sponsors of the legislative proposals, Reps. Tiahrt and Brady. The purpose of the hearing is to provide Members of the Committee on Government Reform an opportunity to discuss the proposals with their sponsors.

H.R. 5766, the Government Efficiency Act

Establishment of a Federal Review Commission. This legislation would authorize the President to issue an executive order or the Congress to pass a joint resolution to establish a Federal Review Commission to study whether a specific aspect of federal government operations would function more efficiently and effectively if some or all of the relevant federal programs and agencies were reorganized, consolidated, abolished, expanded, or transferred. A bipartisan Federal Review Commission would be composed of seven members appointed by the President, three of which would be selected by the President, and four of which would be appointed after consultation with the majority and minority leadership of the House and Senate (one commissioner appointed after consultation with each congressional leader).

Proposal by Federal Review Commission. Within one year after its establishment, the Federal Review Commission would submit to the President its assessment of the specific federal programs and agencies reviewed by the Commission as well as any legislation necessary to realign, continue, consolidate, terminate, or enhance the federal agencies and programs reviewed by the Commission. Within 30 days of receipt from the Commission, the President would transmit the assessment and proposal to Congress.

Introduction, Referral of Legislative Proposal. Upon transmission of legislation proposed by a Commission to Congress, the Majority Leader or his designee in the House and the Majority Leader or his designee in the Senate would introduce a resolution approving the legislation proposed by the Commission.

Congressional Committee Consideration. The committee of jurisdiction would have 30 legislative days within which to act on the resolution, with the following possible outcomes:

- (1) *Committee reports favorably without amendment.* See expedited consideration below.
- (2) *Committee reports favorably with amendment.* The resolution would be scheduled for floor consideration under regular order rather than expedited consideration.
- (3) *Committee reports unfavorably, with or without amendment, or reports without recommendation.* The resolution would be scheduled for floor consideration under regular order rather than expedited consideration.
- (4) *Committee fails to report.* See expedited consideration below.

Expedited Congressional Consideration. If the committee fails to report the resolution within 30 legislative days, a privileged motion would be in order to consider the resolution. The Speaker would be required to schedule consideration of the motion within two legislative days of the filing of the motion to proceed, except that the motion would no longer be in order if the House otherwise moves to dispose of the motion (e.g. the Rules Committee reports a rule to provide for consideration of the resolution that tables the motion). A conference could occur if the House and Senate pass different versions of the resolution.

Relocation of Federal Employees. If the position of an employee of an agency is eliminated as a result of the abolishment of an agency in accordance with this Act, there shall be a reasonable effort to relocate such employee to a position within another agency.

Deficit Reduction. Any savings that result from the elimination, consolidation, or reorganization of programs under this Act shall revert to the Treasury for the sole purpose of reducing the federal deficit.

H.R. 3282, the Abolishment of Obsolete Agencies and Federal Sunset Act of 2005

Establishment of Federal Agency Sunset Commission. This legislation would authorize the establishment of a Federal Agency Sunset Commission to review all federal agencies on a periodic basis (at least once every 12 years) to evaluate the efficiency and public need for each agency and to determine whether a reorganization or abolishment of each agency is necessary. The bipartisan Commission would be composed of 12 members, six of which would be appointed by the Speaker of the House (with minority members appointed in consultation with the Minority Leader of the House) and six of which would be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate (with minority members appointed in consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate). The Commission would terminate on December 31, 2030, unless reauthorized by Congress.

Schedule of Review of Federal Agencies. Not later than one year after enactment, the Commission would be required to submit to Congress a schedule of review of all federal agencies, with agencies that perform similar or related functions being reviewed concurrently. In reviewing agencies, the Commission would consider such factors as the agency's effectiveness, whether the agency continues to meet its stated purpose, whether the agency's mission has already been fulfilled, and whether other federal, state or local programs are carrying out similar functions.

Abolishment of Federal Agencies. On September 1 of each year the Commission would submit its report to Congress regarding the agencies reviewed during the prior year, along with the Commission's recommendations, including any legislation necessary to carry out its recommendations. Each agency would be abolished no later than one year after the date that the Commission submitted its review of the agency unless Congress reauthorized the agency. The deadline for abolishment of an agency could be extended for an additional two years if super majorities in both houses vote in favor of such an extension.

Program Inventory. The Comptroller General and the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, in cooperation with the Director of the Congressional Research Service, would be required to prepare an inventory of federal programs within each agency. The purpose of such an inventory would be to advise and assist the Congress and the Commission in carrying out the requirements of this Act.

Relocation of Federal Employees. If the position of an employee of an agency is eliminated as a result of the abolishment of an agency in accordance with this Act, there

shall be a reasonable effort to relocate such employee to a position within another agency.

Offset of Amounts Appropriated. Amounts appropriated to carry out this Act shall be offset by a reduction in amounts appropriated to carry out programs of other Federal agencies.

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